

5.2 Extreme Values and Critical Points

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Total: 9 marks

KEY WORDS critical point 临界点 • extreme value theorem 极值定理

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **the Extreme Value Theorem and critical points**.

You must be able to:

- state the **Extreme Value Theorem** 极值定理
- find the **critical points** 临界点 of a function

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later.

■ EVT and critical points

Extreme Value Theorem: a function continuous on a closed interval $[a, b]$ attains a global maximum and minimum.

Critical points are where $f'(x) = 0$ or f' does not exist — the candidates for local extrema.

■ Example

$f(x) = x^2 - 4x$: $f'(x) = 2x - 4 = 0$ gives the critical point $x = 2$.

2 Practice

2.1 State the Extreme Value Theorem. [1]

2.2 State what a critical point is. [1]

2.3 Find the critical point of $f(x) = x^2 - 4x$. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A critical point occurs where [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A $f = 0$
B $f' = 0$ or f' does not exist
C $f'' = 0$
D $x = 0$

3.2 The EVT guarantees extrema when f is continuous on [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A an open interval
B a closed interval
C all real numbers
D no interval

3.3 $f(x) = x^2 - 6x$.

- (a) Find $f'(x)$. [1]
(b) Set $f' = 0$. [1]
(c) State the critical point. [1]